

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended. Claims 11-15 have been added, and recite the subject matter of claims 3-7 respectively. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claim 10, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-8. Applicants submit that amended claim 8, and added claims 11-15 depend from allowed claim 10. Claims 8 and 11-15 recite subject matter identified as allowable by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants submit, claims 8 and 11-15 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Application No. WO 00/38475 to Marqvardsen et al. (“Marqvardsen”) in view of International Application No. WO 02/50944 to Mähringer.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 8. The Examiner has indicated that claim 8 recites allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 9 are patentable over the combination of Marqvardsen and Mähringer.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Thus, applicants submit claims 2-7 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Final Office Action dated March 9, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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